

Message Text

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SUBJ: FORD-ECHEVERRIA MEETING - BACKGROUND ON FATHER KINO

FOR: ARA

WE HAVE EXCERPTED SOME PASSAGES OF AN "AUTHORIZATION" GRANTED BY THE VICEROY DON JOSEPH SARMIENTO VALLADARES, DATED FEBRUARY 6, 1697, TO TWO JESUIT MISSIONARIES JUAN MARIA DE SALVATIERRA AND EUSEBIO FRANCISCO KINO "FOR THE CONQUEST OF THE CALIFORNIAS" (TRANSLATED BY PROF. IRVING A. LEONARD) WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL IN THE PREPARATION OF REMARKS FOR PRESIDENT FORD DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT. FATHER KINO (1644-1711) WAS AN ACTIVE MISSIONARY, EXPLORER AND COLONIZER OF THE PIAMERIA ALTA REGION OF NEW SPAIN WHICH IS NOW NORTHERN SONORA AND SOUTHERN ARIZONA. IN 1701-02 HE EXPLORED THE COLORADO RIVER AND MADE THE FIRST MAP OF THAT AREA THAT WAS USED UNTIL THE 19TH CENTURY. HE IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE "PADRE ON HORSEBACK". USED JUDICALLY, THE EXCERPTS CAN LEND LOCAL FLAVOR AND AND IN SOME CASES, HUMOR TO REMARKS THAT WOULD APPEAL TO MEXICANS.

FROM THE PROLOGUE BY PROFESSOR LEONARD:

"IN THE HISTORY OF MEXICO, THE ENTRANCE OF THE JESUIT FATHERS INTO CALIFORNIA IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MILITARY CONQUEST OF THE ANAHUAC EMPIRE BY HERNAN CORTES, HIS

CAPTAINS AND SOLDIERS."

"....THE JESUITS, SALVATIERRA AND KINO APPEARED ON THE SCENE AND AIDED BY MISSIONARIES OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES -- MEXICANS, ITALIANS, GERMANS, HONDURANS, CROATS, SLAVS, EVEN A SCOT, WILLIAM GORDON -- ACCOMPLISHED THE FEAT WHICH EVERYONE AGREES IS NOTHING SHORT OF AMAZING."

EXCERPTS FROM THE "AUTHORIZATION", WHICH COULD BE USED TO SHOW THAT CONCERN FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT, THE BUDGET AND BUREAUCRACY HAD NOT REALLY CHANGED SINCE THE DAYS OF FATHER KINO:

DON JOSEPH SARMIENTO VALLADARES: "...I NOW DULY AUTHORIZE UNTIL THE ROYAL WILL SHALL INDICATE ITS PLEASURE, THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED FATHERS...TO LEAD AN EXPEDITION INTO THE CALIFORNIA PROVINCES...I DO THIS SINCE THE COST OF THIS MISSION OF CONVERSION WILL BE SUBSIDIZED BY ALMS THAT SEVERAL ZEALOUS AND DEDICATED CHRISTIAN PEOPLE HAVE CONTRIBUTED FOR SO NOBLE AND HOLY A PURPOSE, AND I DO THIS BECAUSE IT IS HIS MAJESTY'S WILL TO SUCCEED IN ACCOMPLISHING SUCH AN ENTERPRISE, FOR IT WOULD BE A GRAVE BURDEN UPON HIS CONSCIENCE TO FORSAKE SO MANY SOULS THAT SEEK CONVERSION AND BAPTISM.

THIS AUTHORIZATION IS GRANTED WITH THE PROVISION THAT, WITHOUT HIS MAJESTY'S COMMAND, NO EXPENSE WHATEVER FOR THIS EXPEDITION MAY BE CHARGED AGAINST HIS ROYAL EXCHEQUER; THIS IS AN IMPLICIT CONDITION OF HIS CONSENT AND OF HIS PERMISSION."

WE ARE POUCHING TO ARA A FULL REPRODUCTION OF THE AUTHORIZATION.

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